

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAL-01 CG-00 DLOS-04 OES-06 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1020

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ETEL, IMCO

SUBJ: INMARSAT

REF: LONDON 3317

1. BILLINGTON (PRESIDENT OF INMARSAT CONFERENCE) CALLED APRIL 22 ON EC MINISTER MILLER (WHO WAS USREP AT SECOND SESSION OF CONFERENCE) TO DISCUSS PROPOSAL HE HAD RECEIVED FROM USSR THAT HE ARRANGE A MEETING OF US, USSR AND UK REPRESENTATIVES TO DISCUSS ITEMS LEFT UNSETTLED AT 2ND SESSION OF CONFERENCE AND ARRIVE AT AGREEMENT ON THEM. IF PROPOSED MEETING ACCEPTABLE TO US, BILLINGTON PLANS TO USE ROOM AT INTERGOVERNMENTAL MARITIME CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION (IMCO) HEADQUARTERS IN LONDON WHICH IMCO HAS AGREED TO MAKE AVAILABLE AND SUGGESTS LATTER PART OF MAY AS EARLIEST PRACTICABLE TIME. HE SAID HE THINKS TWO OR THREE REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH SIDE WOULD BE MOST PRACTICABLE NUMBER. THERE WOULD BE NO FORMAL RECORDS MADE OF MEETINGS NOR INTERPRETATION PROVIDED.

2. ASSUMING US/UK/USSR MEETING IS HELD AND AGREEMENT REACHED, BILLINGTON SUGGESTED IT THEN WOULD BE USEFUL TO HOLD SECOND MEETING (PROBABLY THE DAY BEFORE THE 3RD

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SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OPENS) TO ENLIST BROADER

SUPPORT FOR SUCH AGREEMENT. HIS IDEA WOULD BE TO INCLUDE THE SAME STATES WHICH COMPOSED THE GROUP WHICH MET DURING THE FINAL DAYS OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE

3. RE VOTE LIMITATION ISSUE, BILLINGTON SUGGESTED THAT, IN VIEW OF LIMITATION ON INCREASE OF ANY SIGNATORY'S SHARES TO 50 PER CENT OF INITIAL SHARE ON REDETERMINATION (PARA 9 ARTICLE V OF OPERATING AGREEMENT), ISSUE OF VOTING LIMITATION MAY NOT BE AS IMPORTANT AS IT HAS APPEARED. IN THIS REGARD, HE SUGGESTED SOME RE-DEFINITION OF FIRST DETERMINATION AND SUBSEQUENT RE-DETERMINATIONS OF SHARES TO CLEARLY LIMIT ANY ADJUSTMENTS TO MAXIMUM OF 50 PER CENT IN ANY ONE YEAR MIGHT FORM PART OF SOLUTION TO VOTING LIMIT PROBLEM. HE THOUGHT THAT SUCH "CONSEQUENTIAL" CHANGES IN TEXT OF ARTICLES MIGHT ALSO BE CONSIDERED AT US/UK/USSR MEETING IF THIS COULD AID IN PRODUCING AGREEMENT ON VOTING LIMITATION ISSUE.

4. COMMENT: USSR INITIATIVE SEEMS TO US TO BE USEFUL STEP TOWARD RESOLUTION OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES. IF DEPT AGREES (AND MILLER IS TO LEAD US TEAM) WE WOULD SUGGEST MEETING BE HELD WEEK OF MAY 24. INSTRUCTIONS ON VOTING LIMITATION AND RESERVATIONS CLAUSE, PARTICULARLY AS LATTER RELATES TO PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES TEXT, WOULD, OF COURSE, BE REQUIRED.

5. WE BELIEVE CLARIFICATION SUGGESTED BY BILLINGTON PARA 3 ABOVE REFLECTS AGREED INTENT OF ARTICLE V AND PROBABLY COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH CONFERENCE RECORDS WITHOUT REVISION OF ARTICLE. HOWEVER, UK AGREEMENT THAT THIS PROVISION MADE VOTING LIMITATION UNNECESSARY DID NOT SATISFY SOVIETS AT SECOND SESSION.

6. DEPT INSTRUCTIONS IN RESPONSE TO USSR PROPOSAL REQUESTED.

ARMSTRONG

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